



Meriwether
Lewis

Field Notes



William
Clark

From the Badger State Chapter of the
Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc

October 2008

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 28

During this time in history: (October-November, 1804/05/)

(The source for all entries is, "The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition edited by Gary E. Moulton, The University of Nebraska Press, 1983-2001.)

October 8, 1804, Clark: "...We passed the lower point of an island close on the larboard side. Two of our men discovered the Arikara village about the center of the island...this island is about 3 miles long...The island is covered with fields where those people raise their corn, tobacco, beans and etc. Great numbers of those people (Arikara) came on the island to see us pass...Capt. Lewis with two interpreters and two men went to the village. I formed a camp...on shore with one sentinel on board of the boat at anchor...all things arranged both for peace or war..."

October 17, 1805, Clark: "...I took two men in a small canoe and ascended the Columbia River 10 miles to an island near the starboard shore on which two large matt lodges of Indians (Yakima) were drying salmon...The number of dead salmon on the shores and floating in the river is incredible to say and at this season they have only to collect the fish, split them open and dry them on their scaffolds... The natives showed me the entrance of a large westerly fork which they call "Tapetett" (the Yakima River) at about 8 miles distant..."

November 21, 1805, Clark: "...The Chinook women wear their hair loose hanging over their back and shoulders. Many have blue beads threaded and hung from different parts of their ears and about their neck and around their wrists...Many of the men have blankets of red, blue or spotted cloth or the common point blankets and sailors old clothes which they appear to prize highly...The food of this nation is principally fish and roots; the fish they procure from the river by the means of nets and gigs...The roots which they use are several different kinds, the Wappato which they procure from the natives above, a black root and the wild liquorish is the most common..."

Badger Chapter Members Visit Cape Girardeau

By: Mary Jo Meyer



Above: Badger Chapter President Jim Rosenberger is greeted by Jane Randol Jackson as the chapter members arrived at The Red House in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Eight members of the Badger State Chapter of the LCTHF met on Friday, September 5, at the Drury Lodge in Cape Girardeau, MO, for our fall field trip. Jim Rosenberger gave us an over-view of the weekend, then we left for dinner at Port Cape, a local restaurant. Over dinner everyone got re-acquainted and discussed their summer travels. The LCTHF Annual Meeting, held in August in Great Falls, MT, was discussed in detail as most of our group had attended. Sounded like it was a fantastic time!

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Saturday we all ended up having **Cont. from pg. 1** breakfast together at the Drury.

Nothing like a free hot breakfast to start out our very busy day! After breakfast we carpooled to the Red House Interpretive Center for a "private" tour conducted by Jane Randol Jackson of the George Drouillard Chapter. The Red House was owned by Louis Lorimier, Cape Girardeau's founder. The house was his home/trading post/seat of government, as Lorimier was the commandant of the Cape Girardeau district. Lewis stopped to pay his respects while he, Clark and their men were on their way to St. Louis in November of 1803. We saw many artifacts from that era, heard a brief history about Lorimier and his family, and even saw a wonderful video about how the Red House was reconstructed. After a very informative time at the Red House, Jane led us a few miles north to Cape Rock, near the area where the Corps camped, shown below.



For lunch we joined the George Drouillard Chapter at My Daddy's Cheesecake. We discussed membership, how we tried to have a speaker at each meeting, etc. Then we were off to the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers near Cairo, IL. The sun finally put in an appearance and we were able to enjoy the sparkling

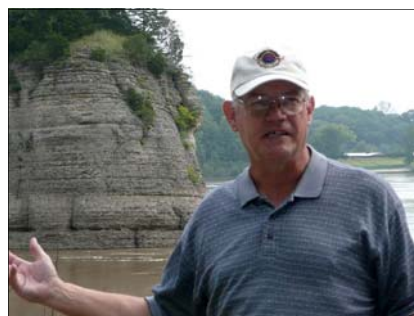


blue of the Ohio, and the somewhat muddy mighty Mississippi! We also enjoyed watching the many barges traveling up and down the river. Was that a keelboat I saw out there? Pictured (bottom of previous column) is our group at the confluence. Photo by Dave & Collette Sorgel.

Our day wasn't finished yet as we headed back to Cape Girardeau and a visit to the Archive Center of Cape Girardeau County. Again, our affable hostess, Jane, arranged for our after-hours visit. This was an extremely enlightening stop, especially since we were able to view an authentic document signed and sealed on December 18, 1815, by William Clark, Governor of the Territory of Missouri, as well as a note written and signed by Reuben Field on March 21, 1809. Being able to see and hold (in their protective jackets, of course!) these actual documents was, to me, quite a thrill! This was an opportunity that rarely presents itself, and I actually felt quite honored. While we were checking things out Jane (pictured here) explained the general workings of the archives to us.



We're not done yet! Some of us went back to the motel to freshen up for supper while the rest of us went to the sea wall to check out the beautiful murals. These murals are a painted history of the Cape Girardeau area from the early Native American times to the present. Each picture has its own small interpretive sign by the walk so the visitors get a mini history lesson as they travel from past to present. We all came together for supper at Buckner Brewing Company, another local establishment. After one more enjoyable meal, and a discussion of our busy day, we headed back to the motel and a well-deserved rest!



Sunday morning we headed for Grand Tower Rock. We were met there by Fred Eggers, (pictured left) president-elect of the George Drouil-

Cont. on pg. 3

lard Chapter, who gave us a history **Cont. from pg. 2** of the area. Lewis and Clark mapped this rock and documented their visit.

We then took a short hike to a look-out spot on the bluff behind the riverside area where Fred had talked to us. What a beautiful view of the Mississippi River and Grand Tower Rock from up here! (See below) I think most of us were somewhat in awe of all the



deadfall coming down river, as well as the speed of the current, and the eddies and whirlpools the river created as it went around the rock. Fred said the river was higher than normal for this time of year.

After bidding farewell to Fred, we headed up river to Ft. Kaskaskia. It was here that Lewis selected some members of the Corps of Discovery. The fort itself is long gone, but the earthen bunkers that outlined the fort are still there. Next we visited the Pierre Menard House, home of the first Lt. Governor of Illinois. Unfortunately, this site is being closed by the State of Illinois, and this was the last week it was to be open. (Picture below)



Then it was off to Chester, IL, for lunch. After saying our good-byes to Dave and Collette (work always seems to find a way to interfere with one's fun!) the rest of us headed back to the motel. Due to our late lunch we decided not to meet for supper, so good-byes were said and we headed for our respective rooms. We had experienced two knowledge-packed days. A lot of it wouldn't have been possible without the marvelous assistance of Jane Randol Jackson. We owe her a deep debt of gratitude! Thanks also to Jim Rosenberger for making all of the arrangements and making contact with Jane. We're looking forward to next year's trip. Hope you can join us!

Mary Jo & Tim Meyer

A Brief Overview of the LCTHF Annual Meeting

By: Dave & Collette Sorgel



Whenever Lewis & Clark folks get together a fun and interesting time is usually the result. The 40th annual meeting of the LCTHF in Great Falls, MT was no exception. The Badger Chapter coming from a non-trail state was admirably represented.



Badger Chapter Members in Great Falls with Foundation President Karen Seaberg (center)

“Using Maps as Metaphors: Tracing the Journey,” was the theme of the meeting. Every day was packed full of activities, presentations and socializing. It started off with the third cen-

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tury banquet. The dinner and auc- **Cont. from pg. 3**
 tion was held at the C.M. Russell Museum. (above) What a delightful venue for the kick off event! The following days included numerous presentations, work shops, demonstrations and field trips. One of the presentations we enjoyed was “Mapping the trail through the eyes of an artist” by Ron Ukrainetz. He gave us some interesting insights about creating art that is not only pleasing to the eye but also historically accurate. One of the evening’s meals that was really fun was the pitch fork fondue at the Ryan Dam Facility (the biggest of the great falls). Yes, they really did use pitch forks to make the meal.

The highlight of the annual meeting for us was the tour day. We opted for a float trip on the Missouri that followed the trail down river stopping at important Lewis & Clark sites such as the Lower Portage Camp and Sulphur (Sacagawea) Springs. We can tell you nothing beats actually being out there on the trail following in the foot steps of the Corps of Discovery. Another section of the trail was checked off on our life list of Lewis & Clark’s journey.

The common interest we all have in the Lewis & Clark saga is what makes it so very special to see old friends and make new ones. One of our new friends is a young fella named Joshua Debonis who we came to find out is a game designer and is working with Carol Bronson at the foundation to develop a new Lewis & Clark video game. This just might be something that will help all of our chapters to reach a younger generation to become engaged and involved in the Lewis & Clark Story. Let’s hope so.



This was our first LCTHF annual meeting and we felt it was well worth our while to have attended. It sure was nice to be able to share all of it with some of the other Badger Chapter members who were there. We had such an enjoyable time we’re planning to attend next years October annual meeting in Memphis. Maybe you should think about attending as well. They have a lot of nice things planned so it sounds like it will be well worth it for you to be a part of it. I don’t know about you but we just can’t get enough of this Lewis & Clark stuff.

Till next time... “Peace and Friendship”
Dave & Collette Sorgel

Montana Trip Report



**Bill & Marcia Holman
 Canoeing the Missouri River**

The Badger Chapter is so fortunate to have people like the Meyers and the Sorgels who will take the time to write these great articles, sharing their adventures during the last few months. We were privileged to have shared many of

these times with them and the Rosenbergers, and a few more out on our own. We have prepared a fairly large PDF document that tells the story of our trip, and if you have a high speed Internet connection, we would like to share it with you at:

<http://wghmch.com/MontanaTripReport.pdf>

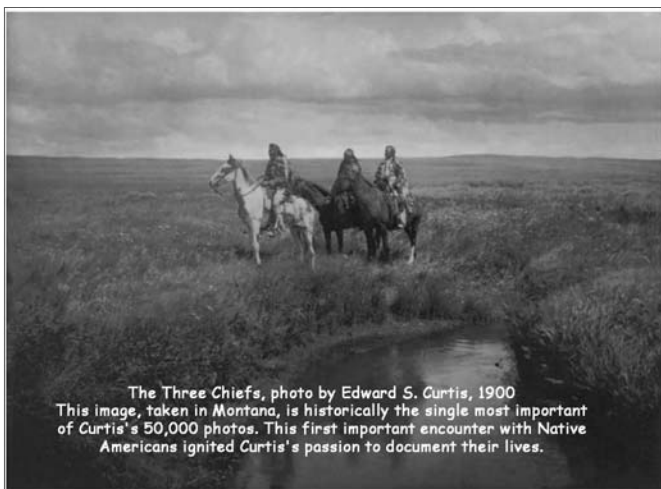
The Two Medicine Fight: The Blackfeet Perspective

By: Jack Schroeder

On July 26, 1806, Captain Meriwether Lewis was leading the Field brothers and George Drouillard in an exploration of the source of the Marias River in present-day Montana. A chance encounter with a group of young Blackfeet men precipitated a fight the next morning which was fatal for two of the Indians. This was the only time that blood was shed by any Native Americans whom the Corps of Discovery met on their 28 month journey. This violence has been cited as the reason for the enduring hostility which the Blackfeet displayed for the new Americans for the next 75 years. A different explanation for this enmity was described in the last issue of Field Notes. This article will attempt to better understand who these Blackfeet were and what happened that July morning.

First, there is a necessary caution. In trying to enter the mindset of an alien culture the ground is never solid, and the footing is never sure. The heartfelt reality of one is often incomprehensible to others. Much of what follows is speculative, intuited, or concluded from scant and conflicting evidence. Truly, to know anything at all of the Native American experience it is necessary to walk a mile in their moccasins.

The Blackfoot Confederacy consists of four tribes united by a common language and culture. The Blackfeet (Pikuni) tribe lives in modern day Montana, while the North Piegan, Blood (Kainai) and Siksika tribes live now in Canada. Historically all four intermarried freely and were united in common defense agreements. Captain Lewis misidentified the group he encountered as being Gros Ventres (Atsina), an ally of the Blackfeet.



The Blackfeet lived for centuries in the plains of modern Saskatchewan and Alberta, but had been forced to move south and west under pressure from the Cree nation in the last half of the 1600s. At around 1730 the Blackfeet acquired horses, which had been introduced to North America by the Spanish. They were able to kill buffalo more easily, and they were able to live as nomads and follow the great herds. The confederation became larger and much more powerful.

After the family, the most important social unit was the band. A band normally numbered 80 – 200 members, or about 10 to 30 lodges. A group this size could be sustained by the food resources available in a small area. The band could also move easily if local resources had been exhausted. This was also a large enough group to provide defense in most conflict situations.



In their oral traditions, the Blackfeet present themselves as a peaceful people who lived in harmony with their neighbors before the coming of the white man. This self-identity is contradicted by the large number of neighbors who feared the Blackfeet as mortal enemies. The Sioux, Crow, Shoshone, Salish, Nez Perce, Kutenai, and Kalispell nations were all engaged in persistent, low-level fighting with the Blackfeet for resources and hunting territories. These conflicts were characterized by skirmishes, retributions and forays seeking horses which were frequently initiated by the Blackfeet warriors. This activity was in fact the main method by which young men proved their valor to the tribe. The brave who was artful in stealing horses was honored and esteemed in the band.

By the time the Lewis and Clark expedition entered their territory, the Blackfeet had procured guns from British fur traders and dominated the country bordered by the Yellowstone River, the Rocky Mountains, and the Saskatchewan River.

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Captain Lewis recorded his description of the Two Medicine fight several days after the event when he was safely reunited with the larger part of the expedition. When he wrote his report he had to be aware that he would be judged for killing an Indian by the account he gave. There would have been temptations to frame the fight in such a way as to make his decisions and actions appear justified. His account should be read with this in mind. However, throughout the journals Lewis does not shrink from self-critical comments. Indeed to many readers he sometimes seems overly critical of himself and his behavior.

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According to Lewis' account, he and his men surprised eight young native men who were driving about 30 horses. After an initial panic, the natives entered into a conversation with the explorers. It was agreed that both groups would share a campsite for the evening, with Lewis and Drouillard staying in the skin lodge which the Indians erected, while the Field brothers remained outside near the fire.

At first light the next morning Lewis awoke to find a brave running off with his gun, while the other men were tussling with several braves for control of the other firearms. During this scuffle Reuben Field plunged his knife into the heart of a brave, killing him on the spot. After Lewis and the others had recovered their weapons, the natives attempted to stampede all of the horses. As he chased two of the Indians, Lewis called for them to stop. He shot one with his gun at the same time as the brave fired back, and Lewis felt the bullet pass through his hair. Having retrieved their horses and guns, the whites made a hasty retreat to the rest of the party on the Yellowstone River.

The Blackfeet account, as described on the Nation's website is as follows:

"Lewis and Clark came from a culture based on war and encountered a very peaceful people," tribal elder G.G. Kipp said, "But they wrote the history books saying we were brutal and warlike so they could justify what they did to us."

According to Blackfeet oral histories, Kipp said, Lewis and his party ran into a group of young boys from the Skunk Band who were herding horses back to camp



from a previous foray.

"They stayed with them and gambled with them," he said. "There is a story of a race. In the morning, they went to part company and the Indians took what they had won. That was it," said Kipp. "That's when they were killed."

Darrell Robes Kipp, director of the Piegan Institute in Browning, noted that one of the boys who was killed, Calf Looking, was 13. "These were boys who were horse herders," he said. "They weren't warriors."

By comparison, he noted, Lewis and his party were warriors. "By the amount of weaponry they carried, they must have looked like Rambo to a couple of young boys who had only bows and arrows."

This account supposes that the American party would be willing to gamble their weapons and horses while they were traveling through Blackfeet territory. This seems unlikely in the extreme. The white men were completely aware of their dependence on the guns and horses for their survival. The likelihood that they would put that survival at risk can be easily dismissed. Another discrepancy would appear to be the "young boys who had only bows and arrows" who sent a bullet past Captain Lewis' head.

It is also recorded that young Blackfeet boys on a raid were given silly or derogatory names until they had stolen a horse or counted coup on an enemy. After they had done this they were given a name of greater dignity. Calf Looking may have been 13, but he had apparently already demonstrated attributes valued by Blackfeet warriors.

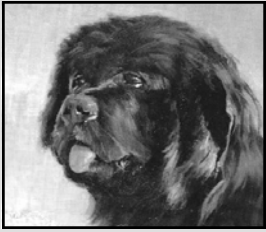
The Blackfeet Website is a great place for chapter members to learn more about the different recollections of the natives and the whites. This can be found at:

<http://www.blackfeetcountry.com/blackfeetdifferfromlewisandclark.html>

Newsletter articles



Do you have an interesting thought about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, or know someone who shares our interest in "The Journey?" Would you like to share it with others through this newsletter? Then write to either Jim Rosenberger at punkinz@tds.net or Bill Holman at wghmch@chorus.net. If you don't have e-mail, call Bill at (608) 249-2233. If you include a picture with your article, we will be happy to return it upon request.



Seaman Says

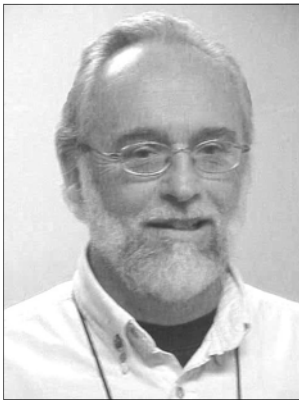
September 5, 1805: Due to differences in language, it is sometimes difficult to communicate with Native Nations. At those times some of the humans in our Corps use their hands to make signs which have specific meanings and by this means are able to explain who we are and what we are about. My Captain Lewis refers to this as “gesticulation of the hands”.

I have learned from this. Through body language and sound I have developed a successful method of communication with the members of the Corps. A wagging tail, excited body motion or a lick with my tongue demonstrates my happiness or agreement with the current situation. A slouched body, drooping ears or sagging tail show I am tired, sad or depressed. A growl, showing of teeth or little “nip” here and there expresses my displeasure. The humans have learned this communication rather quickly and respond accordingly.

At times, our men do not communicate well amongst themselves and they get a bit “testy” with each other. Captains Lewis and Clark then assign a few days of hard work and things seem to settle back to an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation. I enjoy observing these goings on.



President’s Message – October ‘08



Jim Rosenberger

The Foundation’s annual meeting is over and thanks to the Portage Route Chapter and Foundation staff it was an exciting annual meeting. We have returned from a very enjoyable Chapter field trip to Cape Girardeau, MO thanks to Jane Randol Jackson, Fred Eggers and the George Drouillard Chapter.

Our next quarterly meeting is October 25, 2008 and we will announce the results of our election of Board and Officers at that meeting. As you also know by now, October 1st means Chapter membership renewals and you can picture me down on my knees asking you to renew your membership.

At the Foundation annual meeting there was a lot of discussion about falling membership at both the Foundation and Chapter level. The Badger State Chapter has been very fortunate in that for the past three years we have been able to maintain a membership right around 70 members. We have lost a few members but have also gained new members. I want to express my thanks and appreciation to all who have continued your membership and for your continuing support of the Lewis and Clark legacy and also thank you to those who have recently joined us. I truly hope you enjoy the experience.

One of our major challenges is to make people aware of the existence of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and our Badger State Chapter. That is

what makes your membership so important. By talking about Lewis and Clark and our organizations, you help “spread the word”. We need your help to keep the Lewis and Clark legacy going and growing. So talk us up and if you can, sign up a new member.

I know there are more people out there in Badger Land who would join us if they only knew about us. Most of our membership is located in the Milwaukee, Madison and Fox River Valley. We currently have very few members in the north and western areas of Wisconsin. So I ask you to help me in getting the word out to all areas of our state and sign up new members to support our efforts to take Lewis and Clark into the third century of the expedition’s history.

THE BADGER CONNECTION

By: **Jim Rosenberger**

William Clark’s first negotiated treaty with a Native Nation took place in 1808 and his last in 1836.



He is involved in fully one tenth of all Indian treaties ratified by the U.S. Senate. But the 1825 treaty signed at Prairie du Chien did not bring peace to the region as Clark had hoped.

The United States had not completed boundary markings as agreed upon in the 1825 treaty. Warfare continued, pitting the Sioux, Winnebago and Menominee against the Sauk and Fox. White settlers and miners continued to illegally occupy Indian lands. At the same time the government wanted to acquire the Indian mining region near present day Dubuque, Iowa. The interaction of all these differing interests continued to foster unrest in the region under William Clark’s jurisdiction.

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In 1830, chiefs Keokuk and Wapello headed up a delegation of Sauk and Fox to visit Clark in St. Louis and discuss this unrest. As a result, Clark agreed to meet with the Native Nations again at Prairie du Chien.

On June 24, 1830 William Clark, almost 60 years old, departed St. Louis for Prairie du Chien along with his co-commissioner, Willoughby Morgan and a contingent of U.S. troops from Jefferson Barracks led by major Stephen Watts Kearny. Accompanying Clark were his wife Harriet, son Thomas Jefferson Clark (nicknamed Pomp) and Harriet's daughter Mary. A special guest was thirty-three year old artist George Catlin.

The council opened at Prairie du Chien on July 4, 1830 with the usual ceremonies conducted for such a large gathering of Native Nations. A message from the President of the United States was read and then the treaties were read and explained to all in attendance. Clark commented, "...the Sioux highly approved and after some consulting and a great many speeches on both sides, they smoked the pipe of peace together and shook hands in my presence..." The Sauk chief Keokuk and 112 other chiefs and headmen from various tribes signed the treaty.

Clark also purchased a forty mile strip of land which was intended to become a buffer zone between the Sioux in the North and the Sauk and Fox in the South. Although Clark could not purchase the Dubuque mining region from the Sauk and Fox because the price demanded was higher than Clark had been authorized to spend, the land acquisition pleased lead miners who felt it would support their mining claims.

But obtaining this buffer zone of land did little to help keep the peace. Soon after the 1830 treaty at Prairie du Chien the Sioux and Menominee were again battling the Sauk and Fox. 1830 saw the beginning of white squatters taking over western Illinois farmland belonging to the Sauk. Black Hawk had not been at the treaty talks at Prairie du Chien when Keokuk gave up lands to the U.S. and in 1830, he attempted to re-

turn to his village on the Rock River in western Illinois only to find it occupied by white squatters.

The Black Hawk war of 1832 is piece of history all its own. But relative to our Badger Connection to Lewis and Clark, the war took place while William Clark was Superintendent of Indian Affairs and Clark's oldest son, Meriwether Lewis Clark (called Lewis by the family) would serve in the Black Hawk War and be one of those who would chase Black Hawk and his band through northern Illinois & southern Wisconsin.



The 1830 treaty negotiations at Prairie du Chien had prevented William Clark from attending Meriwether Lewis Clark's graduation from West Point but the first assignment for the young Clark was as aide de camp to General Henry Atkinson who led U.S. troops against Black Hawk. Like his Father, Lewis drew maps of battle sites and locations to document his travel through Wisconsin.

Correspondence between Lewis and his father place him at familiar Wisconsin sites:

July 3, 1832: "...At the mouth of lake Koshkonong we found an ancient entrenched camp, a very strong position...this camp Black Hawk had taken advantage of and encamped in it..."

July 24, 1832: "...We reached here last night much fatigued after a march of 20 miles without water...The General was on a march to drive out the enemy from Cranberry Lake (Horicon Marsh)..."

And so two generations of Clarks helped form the connection to what would become Wisconsin.

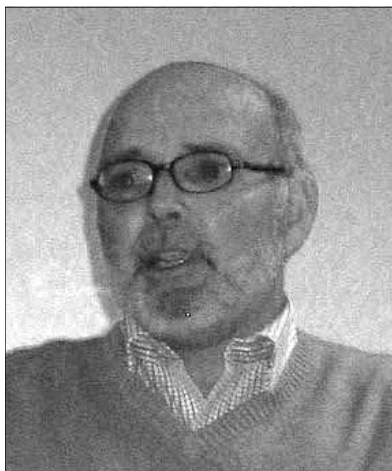
References; Wilderness Journey, the Life of William Clark by William E. Foley, University of Missouri Press, 2004. William Clark and the Shaping of the West by Landon Y. Jones, Hill and Want, 2004. William Clark; Indian Diplomat by Jay Buckley, University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. Hunting a Shadow, the Search for Black Hawk, by Crawford B. Thayer, Banta Press, 1981.

Fall Quarterly Meeting

Join us October 25, 2008 at the De Forest Library for our fall quarterly meeting.



The business and board meeting will begin at 9:30 A.M. We will be announcing our election results and discussing business for the remainder of the year including Badger Chapter Logo clothing from Lands End.



At 11:00 A.M. our guest speaker will be Robert Birmingham, archaeologist and author who teaches at UW-Waukesha, is senior editor of "Wisconsin Rock Art" and coauthor of "Indian Mounds of Wisconsin and "Aztalan: Mysteries of an Ancient Indian Town". His new book is "Spirits of Earth: The Effigy Mound Landscape of Madison and the Four Lakes"

You may recall that Bob previously spoke to us about trade beads and his current discussion will contrast the style of the French, British and Americans in dealing with Native Nations during the fur trade era.

After the meeting join us for lunch (Dutch treat) and conversation at the DeForest Family Restaurant, 505 W. North St., DeForest, WI.

=We're On The Web=

"Field Notes" is also available on the Internet.

Some people only receive "Field Notes" as a black and white copy. It is far better to get it on line, where some pages are in color. To get on the list to receive the link, drop an e-mail to Bill Holman at: wghmch@chorus.net...we'll send you a link where you can find it and share it with your friends.

Badger Chapter Information



Treasurer's Report

The Badger Chapter has \$3,285.24 in the Chapter Treasury as of October 1, 2008, and renewals are coming in daily.



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